

Ranking criteria	Points
(3) Has the facility where the project is located demonstrated a commitment to environmental compliance, sustainability, and stewardship and has an agency or organization officially recognized the facility for its commitment?.	0–1.
(d) Total possible points .....	36.

**§ 86.52 What does the Service consider when evaluating a project on the need for more or improved boating infrastructure?**

In evaluating a proposed project under the criterion at §§ 86.51(a)(1) on the need for more or improved boating infrastructure facilities, we consider whether the project will:

(a) Construct new boating infrastructure in an area that lacks it, but where eligible vessels now travel or would travel if the project were completed;

(b) Renovate a facility to:

(1) Improve its physical condition;

(2) Follow local building codes;

(3) Improve generally accepted safety standards; or

(4) Adapt it to a new purpose for which there is a demonstrated need;

(c) Create accessibility for eligible vessels by reducing wave action, increasing depth, or making other physical improvements;

(d) Expand an existing marina or mooring site that is unable to accommodate current or projected demand by eligible vessels; or

(e) Make other improvements to accommodate an established eligible need.

**§ 86.53 What factors does the Service consider for benefits to eligible users that justify the cost?**

(a) We consider these factors in evaluating a proposed project under the criterion at § 86.51(a)(2) on whether benefits to eligible users justify the cost:

(1) Total cost of the project;

(2) Total benefits available to eligible users upon completion of the project; and

(3) Reliability of the data and information used to decide benefits relative to costs.

(b) You must support the benefits available to eligible users by clearly describing them in the project statement and explaining how they relate to *Need* at § 86.43(a).

(c) We will consider the cost relevant to all benefits to eligible users that are adequately supported in the application. We may consider the availability of preexisting structures and amenities, but only in the context of the need identified at § 86.43(a).

(d) Describe in your application any factors that would influence project costs, such as:

(1) The need for specialized materials to meet local codes, address weather or terrain, or extend useful life;

(2) Increased transportation costs due to location; or

(3) Other factors that may increase costs, but whose actions support needed benefits.

(e) Describe any costs that are associated with providing a harbor of safe refuge.

**§ 86.54 What does the Service consider when evaluating a project on boater access to significant destinations and services that support transient boater travel?**

In evaluating a proposed project under the criterion on boater access at § 86.51(a)(3), we consider:

(a) The degree of access that the BIG-funded facility will give;

(b) The activity, event, or landmark that makes the BIG-funded facility a destination, how well known the attraction is, how long it is available, and how likely it is to attract boaters to the facility; and

(c) The availability of services and safety near the BIG-funded facility, how easily boaters can access them, and how well they serve the needs of eligible users.

**§ 86.55 What does the Service consider as a partner for the purposes of these ranking criteria?**

(a) The following may qualify as partners for purposes of the ranking criteria:

(1) A non-Federal entity, including a subgrantee.

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(2) A Federal agency other than the Service.

(b) The partner must commit to a financial contribution or an in-kind contribution, or to take a voluntary action during the period of performance.

(c) In-kind contributions or actions must be necessary and contribute directly and substantively to the completion of the project. You must explain in the grant application how they are necessary and contribute to completing the project.

(d) A governmental entity may be a partner unless its contribution to completing the project is a mandatory duty of the agency, such as reviewing a permit application. A voluntary action by a government agency or employee is a partnership.

**§ 86.56 What does the Service consider when evaluating a project that includes more than the minimum match?**

(a) When we evaluate a project under the criterion for match at § 86.51(b)(1), we consider how much cash the applicant and partners commit above the required minimum match of 25 percent of project costs.

(b) The contribution may be from a State, a single source, or any combination of sources.

(c) We will award points as follows:

Percent cash match	Points
26–30 .....	1
31–35 .....	2
36–40 .....	3
41–45 .....	4
46–50 .....	5
51–60 .....	6
61 or higher .....	7

(d) We must waive the first \$200,000 in match for the entities described at § 86.32(a). We will determine the required match by subtracting the waived amount from the required 25 percent match and award points using the table at paragraph (c) of this section.

**§ 86.57 What does the Service consider when evaluating contributions that a partner brings to a project?**

(a) We consider these factors for partner contributions in evaluating a proposed project under the criterion at § 86.51(b)(2):

(1) The significance of the contribution to the success of the project;

(2) How the contribution supports the actions proposed in the project statement;

(3) How the partner demonstrates its commitment to the contribution; and

(4) The ability of the partner to fulfill its commitment.

(b) We may consider the combined contributions of several partners, according to the factors at paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) To receive consideration for this criterion, you must show in your application how a partner, or group of partners, significantly supports the project by addressing the factors in paragraph (a) of this section.

(d) You may describe partner contributions in the project statement.

(e) Under this criterion, partner contributions need not exceed the 25 percent required match.

**§ 86.58 What does the Service consider when evaluating a project for a physical component, technology, or technique that will improve eligible user access?**

(a) In evaluating a proposed project under the criterion at § 86.51(c)(1), we consider whether the project will increase the availability of the BIG-funded facility for eligible users or improve eligible boater access to the facility by:

(1) Using a new technology or technique; or

(2) Applying a new use of an existing technology or technique.

(b) We will not award points for following access standards set by law.

(c) We will consider if you choose to complete the project using an optional or advanced technology or technique that will improve access, or if you go beyond the minimum requirements.

(d) To receive consideration for this criterion, you must describe in the grant application the current standard and how you will exceed the standard.

**§ 86.59 What does the Service consider when evaluating a project for innovative physical components, technology, or techniques that improve the BIG project?**

(a) In evaluating a proposed project under the criterion at § 86.51(c)(2), we